

ATKINSON

BROWNVILLE



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## MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT # 41

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March 31, 2008

Commissioner Susan Gendron  
Department of Education  
State House Station #23  
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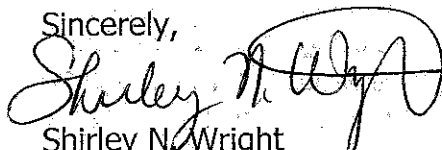
Commissioner Gendron:

MSAD #41 is currently waiting to work on a consolidation plan with MSAD #31 in the Howland area. I received a call from Norm Higgins saying that your office would not release combined financial information to us until Howland decided what they were going to do. At this time, we have not heard back from MSAD #31 about their plans. We have worked on two plans already; this will be our third. The process is cumbersome, to say the least, and we are not finding great cost savings or the ability to improve educational programs for our students regardless of where we look.

If this third attempt should fail, I will need to look to you for guidance regarding any future plans. You need to know that geography, funding and governance are three major barriers in rural Maine. I hope that you are able to resolve some of these issues and give clear guidance so that we can all move forward in a logical, effective manner that allows us to improve education and equity for all Maine students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Shirley N. Wright  
Superintendent of Schools